

Paul

12/23/73

Thanks for insuring the package. The contents are undamaged but both wrappings were ruined!

Before Jim took a short trip, we discussed a FOI suit by you. We agreed that as of now, probably the best one and perhaps the only one is for the pre-assassination Oswald files. We will be discussing this more when we have time.

It has some advantages, one the lapse of 15 years.

However, I don't think it should be filed in the District of Columbia and I am inclined to think it should be filed out there. Right now the court here is off on a crazy retreat. Too close to Watergate, I guess. I think the chances here are at best not as good as they were because the appeals court has reversed all its decisions in my suit and has been fairly specific with regard to any FBI materials.

This means in your jurisdiction, the only alternative. And that means that Jim can't be your lawyer. He can be helpful, of counsel.

So, while we are all chewing this over, do you think you can get a bright and willing young lawyer out there to handle this for you? How about the local ACLU?

If he would have been willing, Bob Treuhart won't be able to. He has gone to England for a year.

While you are thinking of lawyers, if you come across one of friendly disposition in L.A. I can use one there. To collect money due me.

Jim is extraordinarily busy. He has always done all of Bud's legal work on the joint cases and he has to complete the preparation of the cert. to the Supreme Court in the Spectro case as soon as he returns. This will be followed very soon by some development in the Ray case. He is also taking a case to the Supreme Court for brother John Ray, who also was done in by his own lawyer. Pretty good start for a young lawyer who has yet to take his first case to any court, no?

And there are other priority projects.

I am sorry I know nothing about the ^{lawyer} ~~legal~~ situation out there. But I rather imagine that no farther back than the "free speech" cases some principled ones turn up. If you have any thoughts, please let us know.

I mentioned the Stern files to Jim again Thursday. I can ask Carl and I will if Jim doesn't. I think it is possible that he will let us copy them. He would know that we can get them from Justice but at some cost.

The edition of the Post that gets into the country did not carry the story, but a later edition Friday carried a story reporting that beginning in 1964 Hunt was with a domestic-intelligence unit of CIA, 17 and Penna Ave, NW, and with a ten-man publisher unit. This coincides with my earlier info about what he was up to. Please watch your sources. There may be more. The LBJ fake you may have seen seems to have been leaked by Baker, who also seems to have had a private interview with Hunt. Nice people. The work that was illicit that Hunt did he did not do for the White House or for LBJ and did do for CIA.

Perhaps it is not necessary, but let me caution you about lawyers, based on personal and fairly extensive experience. Jim is the exception, even among the principled. Example: Bob Treuhart is a friend from World War II days. A year ago I asked him if he would undertake to attempt collection of about \$5,000 for me out there on contingency. He replied that he would and asked for the files and an explanation. I copied the files, made a long explanation and nothing happened. I wrote twice and got no response. Then there was a development and I wrote again, this time a little sharply. His response was a bland apology for having done nothing and reporting that he would not be able to because he was leaving for England. I had to write again to ask for the files. I asked also if whoever sent them would tell me the statute of limitations under California law. I got in return the files without any covering letter, even a note. Similar experiences in NYC with "principled" lawyer friends, who did nothing except run my ass off. I have just effected a settlement with Button, which took Q&B over, on Frame-Up. This settlement is 100% of what I had claimed, \$5,500. I could have made legitimate claim for much more and any decent lawyer would and would have collected. But if I could do this with a few letters and phone calls, need I estimate what a lawyer could have? And if this is all the effort it required of me, it would have been less work for a lawyer and a profitable case. So be alert. Best,